

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A hard-drawn steel wire comprising:

C: 0.5 - ~~0.7~~ 0.68 mass% (hereinafter, referred to as %),

Si: 1.0-1.95%,

Mn: 0.5-1.5%, and

Cr: 0.5-1.5%,

Fe and inevitable impurities,

said wire, which consists of at least one selected from the group consisting of ferrite and pearlite, further comprising 5 particles/100 μm^2 or less of carbides wherein the circle-equivalent diameters of the carbides are 0.1 μm or more.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The steel wire according to claim 11, further comprising 0.05-0.5% of Ni.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The steel wire according to claim 11, further comprising 0.3% or less (excluding 0%) of Mo.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The steel wire according to claim 12, further comprising 0.3% or less (excluding 0%) of Mo.

Claims 15-42 (Canceled)

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The steel wire according to claim 11, said wire comprising 2 particles/100 μm^2 or less of carbides wherein the circle-equivalent diameters of the carbides are 0.1 μm or more.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The steel wire according to claim 43, further comprising 0.05-0.5% of Ni.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The steel wire according to claim 43, further comprising 0.3% or less (excluding 0%) of Mo.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The steel wire according to claim 44, further comprising 0.3% or less (excluding 0%) of Mo.

Claim 47 (Canceled)

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): ~~A method of using a steel wire, the method comprising coiling the steel wire of claim 11 into a spring~~ The steel wire according to claim 11 for use in a hard-drawn spring.